



EPA Office of Prevention, Pesticides, and Toxic Substances

**How To Comply with the Worker Protection Standard
for Agricultural Pesticides: What Employers Need to Know
Appendix A: Criteria for WPS Materials**

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APPENDIX A

CRITERIA FOR WPS MATERIALS

The WPS contains specific criteria for the design of the sign required for treated-area posting and for the content of the safety poster, worker training materials, and handler training materials. This appendix lists those criteria.

EPA has developed a safety poster, warning sign, and worker and handler training programs to meet the requirements of the WPS. You may use these materials, or you may use alternative materials that meet the criteria as listed in this appendix.

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CRITERIA FOR PESTICIDE SAFETY POSTER

Each WPS safety poster must convey to workers and handlers:

1. That there are federal rules to protect them, including a requirement for safety training.
2. How to help keep pesticides from getting on or into their bodies. The poster must include the following instructions:
 - Avoid getting on your skin or into your body any pesticides that may be on plants and soil, in irrigation water, or drifting from nearby applications.
 - Wash before eating, drinking, chewing gum, using tobacco, or using the toilet.
 - Wear work clothing that protects your body from pesticide residues, such as long-sleeved shirts, long pants, shoes, socks, and hats or scarves.
 - Wash or shower with soap and water, shampoo your hair, and put on clean clothes after work.
 - Wash work clothes separately from other clothes before wearing them again.
 - Wash immediately in the nearest clean water if pesticides are spilled or sprayed on your body. As soon as possible, shower, shampoo, and change into clean clothes.
 - Follow directions about keeping out of treated or restricted areas.

REQUIREMENTS FOR WARNING SIGNS

1. Required Words:

- The words “DANGER — PELIGRO” and “PESTICIDES — PESTICIDAS” must be located at the top of the sign and “KEEP OUT—NO ENTRE” at the bottom.

Exception

As an option, you may use warning signs that replace the Spanish words with the same words in another language (other than English) that is read by the largest number of your workers who do not read English. The replacement sign must meet all of the other requirements for the WPS warning sign.

- The words must be clearly legible.

2. Required Design:

- A circle containing an upraised hand on the left and a stern face on the right must be near the center of the sign.
- The background outside the circle must contrast with the inside of the circle.
- The hand and a large portion of the face must contrast with the inside of the circle.
- The remainder of the inside of the circle must be red.
- The length of the hand must be at least twice the height of the smallest letters.
- The length of the face must be only slightly smaller than the hand.

3. Additional Information:

You may put additional information on the warning sign, such as the name of the pesticide and the date of application, if it does not detract from the appearance of the sign or change the meaning of the required information.

4. Size:

The signs must be at least 14 inches by 16 inches, and the letters must be at least 1 inch high.

Exception

On farms and in forests, you may use smaller signs if the treated area is too small to accommodate 14- by 16-inch signs. For example, when a single plant needs to be posted, a smaller sign would be appropriate. In nurseries and greenhouses, you may use a sign smaller than the standard size. Whenever a small sign is used, there are specific posting distances depending on the size of the lettering and symbol on the sign (see table on the next page).

Signs with the words “DANGER” and “PELIGRO” in letters less than 7/16 inch in height **or** with any words in letters less than 1/4 inch in height **or** with the circle graphic containing an upraised hand and a stern face less than 1½ inches in diameter do not meet WPS sign requirements.

Sign Size	Required Height in Inches			Maximum Distance Between Signs*
	Circle Graphic	Lettering for Words “DANGER” & “PELIGRO”	Lettering for Other Words	
7" x 8" (approx.)	3"	7/8"	1/2"	50 feet
4 1/2" x 5" (approx.)	1 1/2"	7/16"	1/4"	25 feet

* This distance requirement is for places where multiple signs are used to post a single treated area, such as a nursery or a greenhouse section. It does not apply where individual signs are used for separate small treatment areas (such as single potted plants in a greenhouse).

CRITERIA FOR WORKER TRAINING

1. WPS training for workers must include at least the following information:
 - Where and in what form pesticides may be encountered during work activities.
 - Hazards of pesticides resulting from toxicity and exposure, including acute effects, chronic effects, delayed effects, and sensitization.
 - Routes through which pesticides can enter the body.
 - Signs and symptoms of common types of pesticide poisoning.
 - Emergency first aid for pesticide injuries or poisonings.
 - How to obtain emergency medical care.
 - Routine and emergency decontamination procedures, including emergency eyeflushing techniques.
 - Hazards from chemigation and drift.
 - Hazards from pesticide residues on clothing.
 - Warnings about taking pesticides or pesticide containers home.
 - An explanation of the WPS requirements designed to protect workers, including application and entry restrictions, design of the warning sign, posting of warning signs, oral warnings, availability of specific information about applications, and protection against retaliatory acts.
2. WPS worker training materials must use terms that the worker can understand.

CRITERIA FOR HANDLER TRAINING

WPS training for handlers must include at least the following information:

- Format and meaning of information on pesticide labels and in labeling, including safety information such as precautionary statements about human health hazards.
- Hazards of pesticides resulting from toxicity and exposure, including acute effects, chronic effects, delayed effects, and sensitization.
- Routes through which pesticides can enter the body.
- Signs and symptoms of common types of pesticide poisoning.
- Emergency first aid for pesticide injuries or poisonings.
- How to obtain emergency medical care.
- Routine and emergency decontamination procedures, including emergency eyeflushing techniques.
- Need for and appropriate use of personal protective equipment.
- Prevention, recognition, and first aid treatment of heat-related illness.
- Safety requirements for handling, transporting, storing, and disposing of pesticides, including general procedures for spill cleanup.
- Environmental concerns such as drift, runoff, and wildlife hazards.
- Warnings about taking pesticides or pesticide containers home.
- An explanation of WPS requirements that handler employers must follow for the protection of handlers and others, including the prohibition against applying pesticides in a manner that will cause contact with workers or other persons, the requirement to use personal protective equipment, the provisions for training and decontamination, and the protection against retaliatory acts.

